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Garden Training a Huge Success...

Our third annual parish wide School Garden Initiative Training was a tremendous success. The training was conducted on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at the Charles Burke Elementary School. Special thanks to the principal Mrs. Loretta Williams-Durand, for allowing us to use the facility. Special thanks to our speakers/tour guides consisting of Paula Guidry, Jason Leonard, Terry Richard, Dr. Kiki Fontenot, John Fontane, Candy Bienvenu, Tina Jumonville, Mary Waguespack and Debra Taghehchian.

Approximately seventy-five students (School Garden Ambassadors), teachers, master gardeners and special guest in attendance. The six schools participating in the program for the 2013-2014 school year are Acadiana High, Charles

Burke Elementary, Judice Middle School, L. Leo Judice Elementary, Lafayette Middle and St. Thomas More Catholic High School. The topics that were covered consisted of creating your outdoor garden, classroom management, garden basics, keep it growing, vegetable garden production and insect management. Youth and adults expanded their knowledge and were engaged

in creating learning activities where they gained a greater awareness of gardening. Our leadership team consisting of master gardeners, teachers and students will begin meeting with each school in October. Monthly meetings are established as advisory planning meetings with the team to evaluate their progress, develop plans and conduct an educational activity.

School Garden Ambassadors learn from Mr. Juan Neito a Lafayette Master Gardener the proper depth for planting seeds, during the training.



Wal-mart & United Healthcare Are Now On Board!

LAFAYETTE, La. - The Walmart Foundation and United Healthcare have partnered with the LSU AgCenter's School Garden Initiative Program. They are both proactive groups that value educating children on healthy eating habits and teaching them the importance of exercise.

Gardening projects for children in a school setting provide an extraordinary learning opportunity said Charles Hebert, County Agent. Through school gardening children can learn science, mathematics, English, environmental studies, health, family and consumer sciences and art.

They learn first-hand about plants, nature and the outdoors, and they learn how fresh food is grown, Hebert said. Eating vegetables from the school gardens promote healthy lifestyles at a younger age. The school garden hands-on learning has had a huge impact on our students!

Sponsors:



From Top to Bottom: Cabbage
Broccoli, & Cauliflower

Try Growing Delicious Fall Vegetables

Cooler mornings in October make it a joy to get out and work in the home vegetable garden. Before planting, do a thorough job of removing any weeds that may have grown in the bed. Turn the soil and add at least a 3-inch layer of compost, rotted manure, leaf mold (partially decayed leaves) or other organic matter. Over this organic matter sprinkle a light application of an all-purpose fertilizer appropriate for your area and add lime if your soil is acid and low in calcium. Then dig everything into the bed. You also could use your favorite organic fertilizer.

Broccoli is an easy-to-grow and productive fall vegetable. Plant transplants you will find at area nurseries now through mid-October. Space plants 12 to 18 inches apart in rows or beds.

Cauliflower is a bit more challenging than broccoli, but it's still a good choice for your fall garden. Cauliflower should be spaced 18 to 24 inches apart; it will only one head, so after harvesting remove the entire plant.

Other related vegetables that are recommended for fall gardens include cabbage, kale and collards. All of these can be

planted from seed or transplants now through February. More vegetables that can be planted this month include beets, cabbage, carrots, celery, Chinese cabbage, collards, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, mustard, onions, peas (English, snow and edible podded), radishes, shallots, Swiss chard, turnips and many herbs.

For more information on growing vegetables in your area, contact your local LSU AgCenter parish office and request a free copy of their Louisiana Vegetable Planting Guide.

By: Dan Gill, LSU AgCenter Horticulturist

Setting Garden Goals/Activity Report

This month we will be setting goals for your garden. Each school should have at least two, but can have more goals for your garden. They should represent the perspective of the teacher as an educator tying the curriculum to the garden, the youth as a student on what they wish to learn and another for service-learning. The service-learning goal may tie to these or create a separate one.

To create these goals you should as a group of garden ambassadors answer these questions: What would you like to accomplish by the end of the school year, what do you plan to have in place one year from now and what would you like to see happen with your school garden program in five years?

Once you have established your goals then begin to devel-

oping your activity report. This should be done using each month of the calendar starting with September through May. Some items to think about are: what is needed to accomplish this goal, materials or resources needed, lead person and assistants and a date when each task should be completed. These are some great steps in the planning process. Goals and events due October 31, 2013.

"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals." Zig Ziglar

Source: www.goal-setting-guide.com

Garden "Impact" Evaluation Survey Choices



There are several evaluation surveys that have been submitted to teachers. Each school is required to complete the Walmart Healthy Living Survey and the Garden Competence Survey. The Walmart survey is specific to the grade level of the students (4th-7th) or (8th-12th). These should be administered and returned to me by

January 10, 2013. The second one that is required is the Garden Competence that should be issued as post test by early May, 2014.

The other optional surveys are the "Draw a Garden" is a pre and post survey and/or post-test and lastly is a "Nutrition Vegetable Preference" that is

administered as a pretest and posttest). Decisions will need to be made by your meetings on which survey you plan to conduct. If there is a pretest, you will need to make the copies and have the students take the surveys before you begin your gardening efforts. If you have any questions, please let me know.

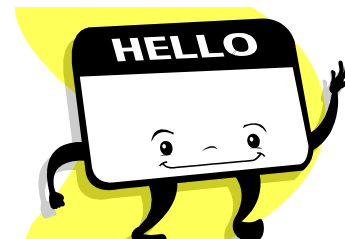
Master Gardeners School Garden Meeting Kick-Off

Thank You for your interest and willingness to be part of this new program that the LSU AgCenter is offering to schools. As we approach this journey of working with the school teachers and educating youth, we will be capturing our best practices to assist others programs to chart their path. As I have mentioned, we are the first Louisiana program to set forth in an organized method to work with the schools. My intent is for us to serve as facilitators in continuing to help plan the gardens and service-learning projects at the schools as well as serving as educators in certain subject matter areas.

During the next week, we will be conducting planning meetings with each of the schools. I am asking you if you want to be part, please check the schedule on the last page of the newsletter. New Master Gardeners may want to attend several schools to learn that each school is a totally different experience. Some of you may make the decision based on a certain age group of children, some may make the decision based on the location of the school, etc. That is up to you for you to choose. If you would like to get more information about the location or specific school, please let me know.

If you decide to get more involved and want to attend the planning meetings there are a few things that we want to make sure that we follow standard school procedures.

When you arrive at the school, please report to the front office and identify yourself as a Master Gardener Volunteer with the LSU AgCenter. Then they will have you sign in and give you a volunteer id badge. You should ask for the lead teacher and let them know that you will be joining them for the garden meeting. The list of the teachers is on the back side of the newsletter.



Wear Your Master Gardener Name Badge & Check-In at the School Office

Service-Learning Focus & Service Days

According to the National and Community Service Act of 1990, **Service-Learning is: organized service experiences that meet real community needs.** The service is integrated into the curriculum where there is purposeful learning taking place.

A critical part of service-learning includes reflection which provides youth the op-

portunity to “think about” their experience. Service-learning enables youth to utilize newly acquired skills and knowledge and typically enhances what is taught either in the classroom or in a community setting. Service-learning extends the world of the youth by extending the community and fostering a sense of caring for others.

Service-Learning has many benefits. You can move beyond your school or 4-H program experience to see the importance of learning in real life experiences. It enhances your self-esteem and sense of civic responsibility by actively making a difference. This is by your involvement in meaningful contributions to your community.

“One of the deepest secrets of life is that all that is worth doing is what we do for others”.
-Lewis Carroll

Special Thanks

Thanks for all you do! As continue our journey, please feel free to contact me to discuss issues, concerns, recommendations to improve the school gardens initiative. We are on a voyage to help the youth truly learn what science is all about through their garden, their outdoor educational laboratory. I look forward to meeting

with each of you this month as we tour the gardens, work with the youth to set individual goals and establish service-learning partners as well as beginning to

Sincerely,

CHARLES HEBERT

Charles Hebert
County Agent, 4-H Youth Dev.

discuss service days.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 291-7090.

It is the policy of the LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age or disability. If you have a disability which requires special assistance for your participation in any aforementioned activity, please contact the Lafayette 4-H office at 291-7090.

OCTOBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 L. Leo Judice 3:00-4:00	11	12
13	14	15 AHS 3:30-4:30	16 C. Burke 8:00-9:00 JMS 3:02-4:02	17	18 STM 9:30-10:30 LMS 2:30-3:30	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31  Goals and Activity report due.		

Special Note: School Garden Meetings will be held on the third week of each month unless special arrangements are made.

List of Schools, Addresses, Phone Numbers & Contacts

School	Type of Garden	Physical Address	Phone	Teacher	Master Gardeners
Acadiana High	Vegetable	315 Rue De'Bier Lafayette, La 70506	521-7950	Cheryl Gelsomine & Brandon Broussard	Genee' Foley, Ester Perkins
Charles Burke Elementary	Vegetable & Wetlands	2845 Ridge Rd. Duson, LA 70529	521-7630	Judy Morgan, Allyson Richard, Terry Richard & Ms. Richard	John Fontane, Mary Waguespack & Chris Butts
Judice Middle (JMS)	Vegetable & Butterfly	2645 S. Fieldspan Road Duson, LA 70529	521-7890	Jason Leonard & Lisa Ledet	Candy Bienvenu, Genee' Foley & Juan Neito
L. Leo Judice Elementary	Vegetable, Bird, Butterfly & Wetlands	5801 Cameron Street Scott, Louisiana 70583	521-7710	Paula Guidry & Cindy Dupre	Linda Beyt, Donna Walker, Sandy Rhodes, Jan Wyatt & Sarah Scheoffler
Lafayette Middle (JMS)	Vegetable	2645 S. Fieldspan Road Duson, LA 70529	521-7890	Stacy Hargrove & Donald Kent	Candy Bienvenu, Theresa Guidry, Amy Warner & Kay Hampton
St. Thomas More Catholic High School	Vegetable	5801 Cameron Street Scott, Louisiana 70583	521-7710	Danielle Price, Barbara Melebeck, Brittany Griffin & Sue Sonnier	Sherlyn Larrison, Martha LaFevre, Victoria Austin & Carolyn Guilbeaux